

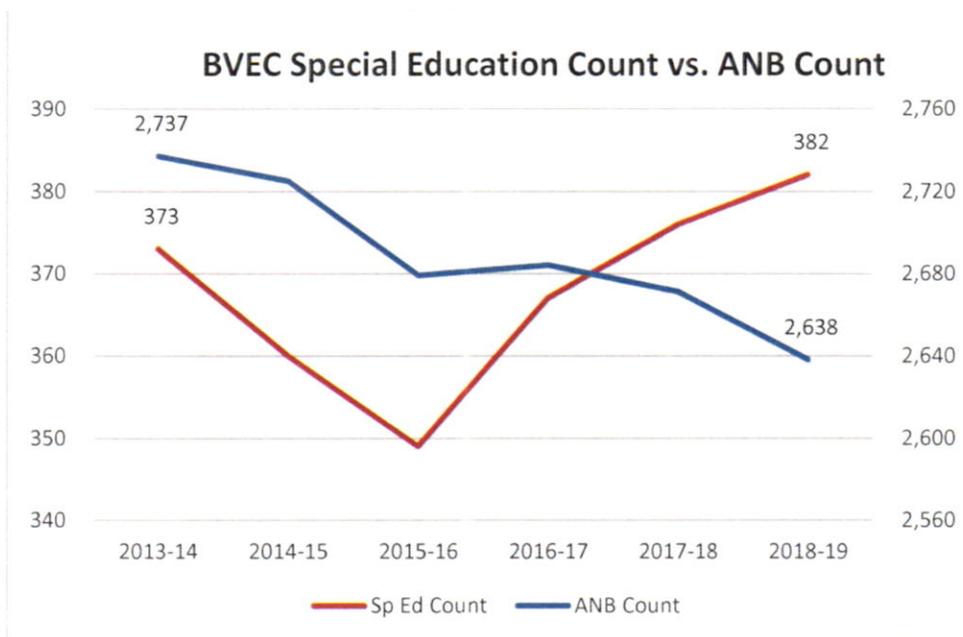
The BVEC is a full-service education cooperative and licensed mental health center providing special education related services and school-based mental health services to six Ravalli County School Districts.

We employ 50 highly qualified individuals (approximately 1/3 Special Education Related and 2/3 Comprehensive School and Community Treatment (CSCT)).

- Special Education and Related Services:
  - 5 member-school districts (2638 total ANB).
  - Center-based Preschool for 4 member-districts.
- School-based Mental Health (CSCT):
  - 5 member-districts.
  - 1 non-member district.
- School District Training, Consultation and Technical Assistance.

### The Big Five Challenges:

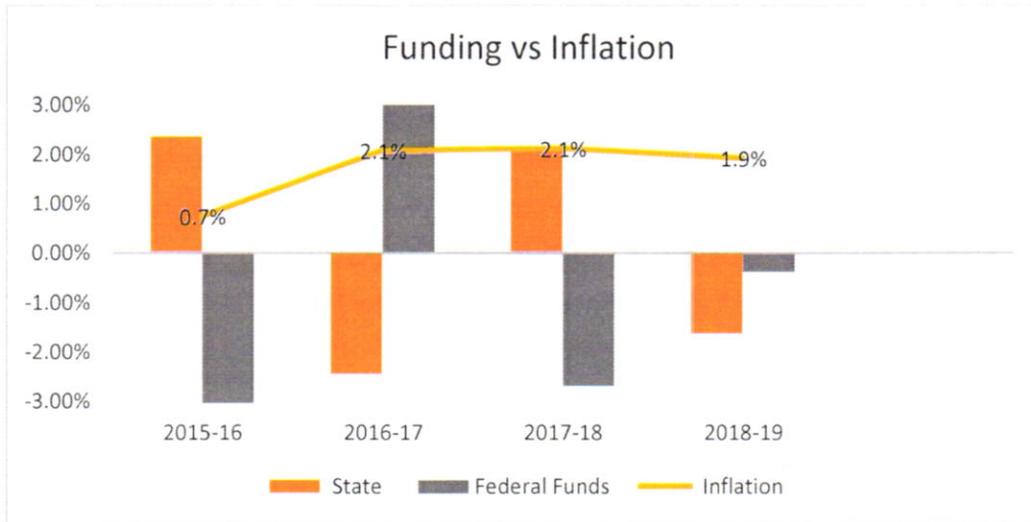
#### 1. Funding tied to ANB is inverse to the rising needs and demands.



- Rural enrollment is declining but identification rate of children with disabilities is not - it is increasing. This is compounded by:

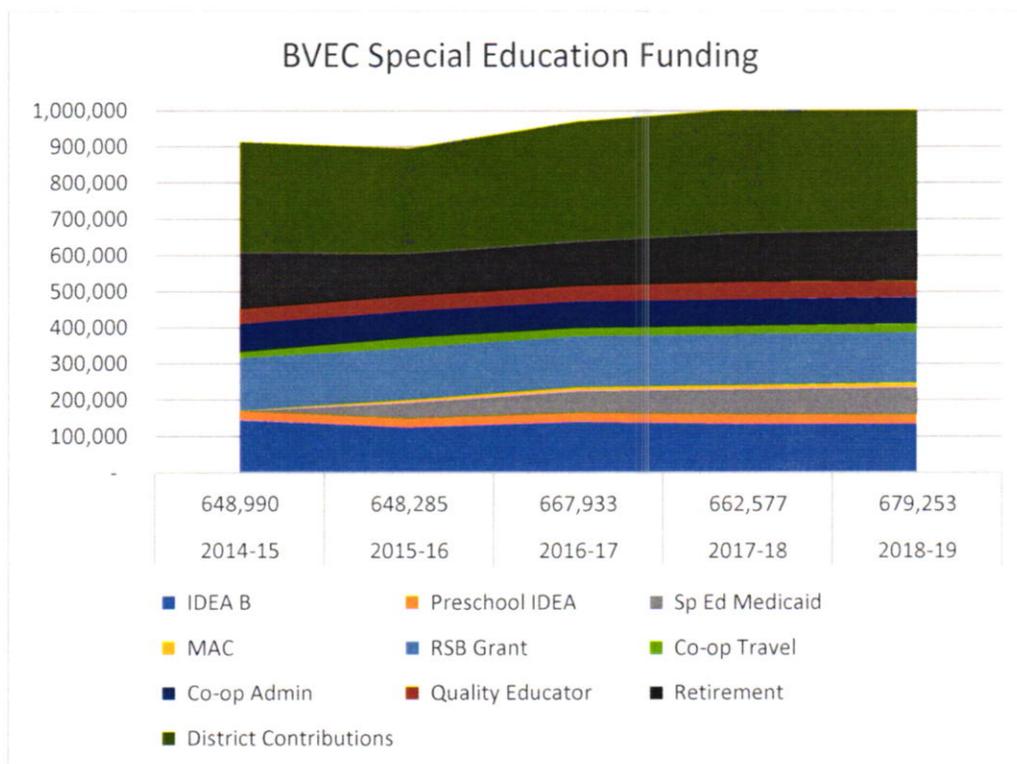
- High student turnover rates (some districts >30% of district enrollment).
- High number of students transferring in with special education needs.
- Increasing number of preschool age students with significantly delayed language and social-skills. Limited funding to support this age group.
- Increasing number of students with Autism and significant behavioral needs.

## 2. Funding does not have automatic annual adjustment

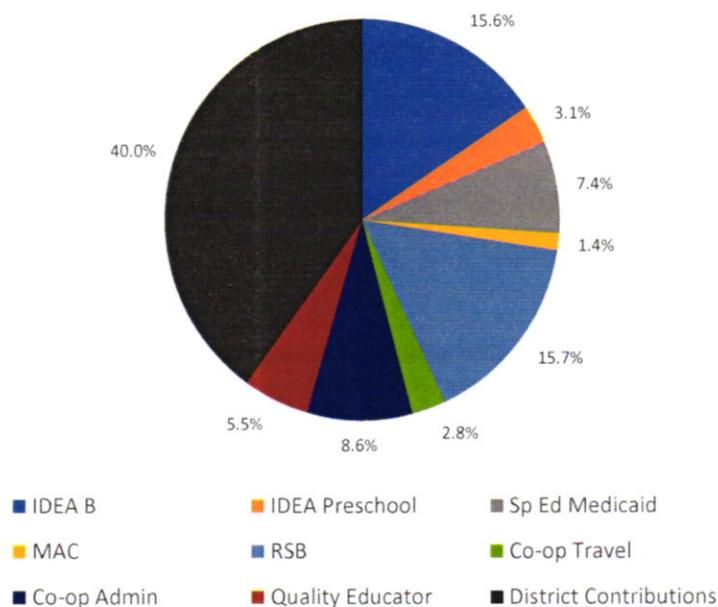


## 3. Growing impact on school district general funds

- District enrollments decline: funding declines for both districts and coops.
- Districts contribute higher levels of dollars from general funds to support district special education instructional services and cooperative related services.



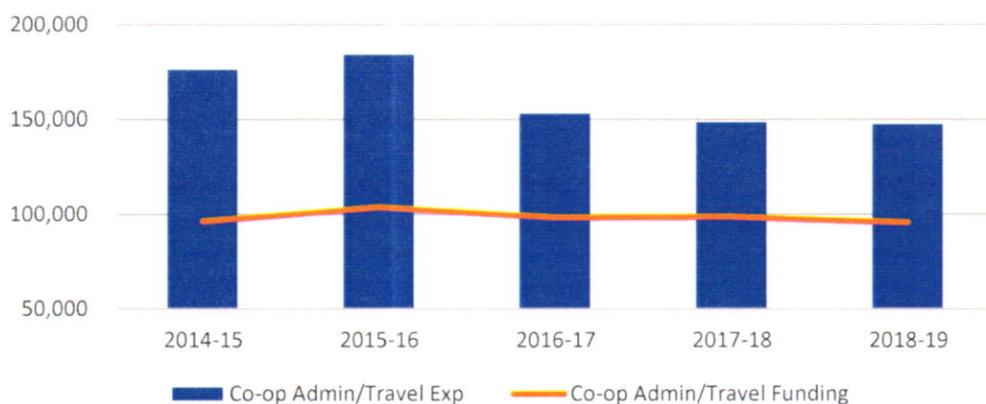
2019-20 BVEC Allocated Revenues



**4. Funding does not adequately address the Increasing amounts time/travel for administrative/technical assistance to address the complexity and needs of students.**

- District staff turnover impacts demand for administrative support and training.
- Special education teachers and school administrators require support.
- School-wide systems of academic and behavior support can be effective in helping control referrals for special education evaluation.
- Continuous support, training and *retraining* is required.

BVEC Co-op Administration



## 5. Recruitment and retention of qualified and trained specialists.

- **Difficult in Montana schools – more so in rural Montana cooperative schools.**
  - Approximately 80% of Montana school districts are members of cooperatives.
  - Approximately 40% of Montana public school students are enrolled in cooperative member school districts.
  
- **2018-19 Critical Quality Educator Shortage Areas (OPI):**
  - All cooperatives are considered *Impacted Schools*.
  - *Determined difficult or unable to hire:*
    - Speech-Language Pathologists – 85% of school districts.
    - Special Education Teacher – 63% of school districts.
  
- **2017-18 Critical Issues Survey (MTSBA):**
  - *Determined difficult or very hard to hire:*
    - School Psychologists – 92% of school districts.
  
- **High-Demand Therapists recruited by medical clinics and hospitals:**
  - Occupational Therapists
  - Physical Therapists